Excerpts from 49 CFR Part 195

Subpart E- Hydrostatic Testing

§195.300 Scope

This subpart prescribes minimum requirements for the pressure testing of steel pipelines. However, this subpart does not apply to the movement of pipe under §195.424.

§195.302 General Requirements.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in §195.304(b), no operator may operate a pipeline unless it has been pressure tested under this subpart without leakage. In addition, no operator may return to service a segment of pipeline that has been replaced, relocated, or otherwise changed until it has been pressure tested under this subpart without leakage.

(b) Except for pipelines converted under §195.5, the following pipelines may be operated without pressure testing under this subpart:

(1) Any hazardous liquid pipeline whose maximum operating pressure is established under §195.406(a)(5) that is-

(i) An interstate pipeline constructed before January 8, 1971;
(ii) An interstate offshore gathering line constructed before August 1, 1977;
(iii) An intrastate pipeline constructed before October 21, 1985; or
(iv) A low-stress pipeline constructed before August 11, 1994, that transports HVL.

(2) Any carbon dioxide pipeline constructed before July 12, 1991, that-

(i) Has its maximum operating pressure established under §195.406(a)(5); or
(ii) Is located in a rural area as part of a production field distribution system.

(3) Any low-stress pipeline constructed before August 11, 1994, that does not transport HVL.

(C) Except for onshore pipelines that transport HVL, the following compliance deadlines apply to pipelines under paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2)(i) of this section that have not been pressure tested under this subpart:

(1) Before December 7, 1997, for each pipeline each operator shall

(i) Plan and schedule testing according to this paragraph; or

(ii) Establishthe pipelines maximum operating pressure under §195.406 (a)(5).

(2) For pipelines scheduled for testing, each operator shall-

(i) Before December 7, 1999, pressure test-

(A) Each pipeline identified by name, symbol, or otherwise that existing records show contains more than 50 percent by mileage of electric resistance welded pipe manufactured before 1970; and
(B) At least 50 percent of the mileage of all other pipelines; and

(ii) Before December 7, 2002, pressure test the remainder of the pipeline mileage.

§195.303 Testing of Components.

The test pressure for each pressure test conducted under this subpart must be maintained throughout the part of the system being tested for at least 4 continuous hours at a pressure equal to 125 percent, or more, of the maximum operating pressure and, in the case of a pipeline that is not visually inspected for leakage during test, for at least an additional 4 continuous hours at a pressure equal to 110 percent, or more, of the maximum operating pressure.

§195.304 Test Medium

(a) Each pressure test under §195.302 must test all pipe and attached fittings, including components, unless otherwise permitted by paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) A component, other than pipe, that is the only item being replaced or added to the pipeline system need not be hydrostatically tested under paragraph (a) of this section if the manufacturer certifies that either-

(1) The component was hydrostatically tested at the factory; or
(2) The component was manufactured under a quality control system that ensures each component is at least equal in strength to a prototype that was hydrostatically tested at the factory.

§195.308 Testing of Tie-ins.

Pipe associated with tie-ins must be pressure tested, either with the section to be tied in or separately.

§195.310 Records

(a) A record must be made of each pressure test required by this subpart, and the record of the latest test must be retained as long as the facility tested is in use.

(b) The record required by paragraph (a) of this section must include:

(1) The pressure recording charts;

(2) Test instrument calibration data;

(3) The name of the operator, the name of the person responsible for making the test, and the name of the test company used, if any;

(4) The date and time of the test;

(5) The minimum test pressure;

(6) The test medium;

(7) A description of the facility tested and the test apparatus;

(8) An explanation of any pressure discontinuities, including test failures, that appear on the pressure recording charts; and,

(9) Where elevation differences in the section under test exceed 100 feet, a profile of the pipeline that shows the elevation and test sites over the entire length of the test section.